

Coast Guard

Shield of Freedom



December
2004

IMAGES OF 2004



Special Pictorial Issue



Coast Guard

U.S. Department of Homeland Security



Homeland
Security

December 2004



SETTING SAIL

America's Tall Ship, the 295-foot Coast Guard Barque Eagle, sails past the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor on April 29.

PHOTO BY PA3 MIKE LUTZ, PADET NEW YORK

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Coast Guard

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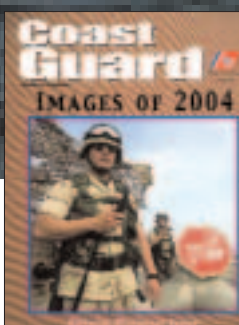
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Letters to the editor: Please limit remarks to 150 words or less. No names will be withheld. Provide rank, first and last name, phone number and unit. Letters may be condensed because of space. Not all letters will be published.

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ON THE COVER

PS3 Rafael Ortiz and PS2 Mike Burch of PSU 307 stand watch at a checkpoint in Ash Shuaiba, Kuwait, March 26.

Photo by
PA1 Matt Belson,
Coast Guard Forces
Southeast Asia

INTRODUCTION

By PA1 Jacquelyn Zettles, G-IPA

2004

This issue of *Coast Guard* magazine is dedicated to all those who have faced incredible challenges to ensure the safety and security of our nation. Their dedication is recognized and honored in this review of 2004.

TRAINING DAY

Under the watchful eye of a Coast Guard Helicopter Interceptor Squadron helicopter, a Coast Guard maritime security force practices fast-roping to the CGC Seneca's flight deck south of Rockaway, N.Y., Aug. 28. Armed Coast Guard helicopters conducted security patrols over New York City during the Republican National Convention.

Photo by PA2 Mike Hvozda, PADET New York



There is a common thread that holds together each of us wearing Coast Guard blue. We have all, whether Active or Reserve, officer or enlisted, Auxiliary or civilian, raised our right hands and sworn an oath to honor, protect and defend the laws and ways of life of the United States of America. Within each of us lies an innate desire to protect our homeland. In order to serve in this organization, we had to survive the required rites of passage.

But the real tests of our fortitude come after boot camp, OCS or the Academy. These tests come during the extremely mundane tasks of painting one more cleat, excruciatingly slow mid-watches or needle gunning until all feeling is lost below the elbows. They include moments of extreme heroism, hours of patience and days away from loved ones. These challenges, though unpleasant at times, ultimately produce within us the character and determination that defines the very essence of the Coast Guard.

From various places throughout the world, 2004 was

wrought with challenges and sacrifices from Coast Guardsmen. On April 24, while serving in Iraq, DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal was killed along with two Navy sailors, by a suicide bomber. He was the first Coast Guardsman killed, in combat since Vietnam. BM3 Joseph Ruggiero also was part of a seven person inspection team that was protecting the Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal. The team was attempting to inspect an Iraqi smallboat when it exploded, and tossed the men overboard. When Ruggiero resurfaced he swam to the unconscious Bruckenthal and inflated his life preserver. The two men are the first Coast Guardsmen to receive the Purple Heart since the Vietnam War.

Bruckenthal and Ruggiero both were honored for their valor and willingness to serve in a foreign land thousands of miles from their home. Hundreds of other Active duty and Reservists served, and are still serving around the world, inspecting cargo, transporting supplies and conducting safety patrols to ensure

STANDING PROUD

DC3 Kevin Buchheit waves the Coast Guard flag during the Chicago Memorial Day Parade May 29. Buchheit is a member of Coast Guard Port Security Unit 309 stationed in Port Clinton, Ohio.

Photo by PA1 Paul Roszkowski,
PADET Chicago

the protection of both civilian and military members working abroad.

Back in the United States, a different kind of sacrifice was made by those executing the traditional missions of the Coast Guard. Longer hours were required of our crews to fulfill our commitments to search and rescue operations, law enforcement, aids to navigation, marine environmental protection, and increased maritime security awareness.

But the tenacity of our crews involved in counter-narcotics operations made fiscal year 2004 a record breaker. The Coast Guard seized 242,435 pounds of cocaine, shattering the previous record of 138,393 pounds reached in fiscal year 2001.

In fiscal year 2004, the Coast Guard saved 5,529 lives; conducted 32,525 SAR cases; seized 25,915 pounds of marijuana; and interdicted 10,899 illegal migrants. The Coast Guard Auxiliary contributed nearly 4 million volunteer hours towards the execution of our missions. The Coast Guard also contributed thousands of man hours to support homeland security operations.

In the 7th and 8th Districts, units were required to work around the clock as the Southeast states were battered by hurricanes that left billions of dollars of damage. ATON units were especially hard pressed to restore the aids to navigation destroyed as Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jean tore through the region.

Units in the 1st District were required to meet the challenge of a mammoth maritime security operation during the Republican and Democratic national conventions, held in New York and Boston, respectively.

Additionally, countless man-hours contributed to numerous Deepwater milestones. In March, the CGC Matagorda became the first 110-foot cutter to make the transition to 123-feet. Since April, twelve 270-foot cutters and six 378-foot cutters were upgraded with sophisticated command, control, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance equipment and capabilities. On Oct. 1, the first re-engineered HH-65 helicopters, with safety and stability upgrades, were



delivered to Aviation Training Center, Mobile, Ala.

In June, Coast Guardsmen from around the country came to Washington, D.C., to honor the memory of President Ronald Reagan. Coast Guard members worked with other members of the Armed Forces to honor the country's 40th president in a formal State Funeral. This was the nation's first State Funeral in 35 years.

There were also some lighter moments in 2004. Justin Labonte became the first NASCAR Busch driver to represent the Coast Guard. In July, Labonte wowed racecar fans when he finished in first place at the Tropicana Twister 300 in Joliet, Ill.

This issue is for all the Coast Guardsmen who met the demanding challenges faced by the Coast Guard in 2004. Your sacrifices and fortitude are honored and your rewards are the gratitude of those saved at sea, a cleaner coastland, a more educated public and a safer America.





NIGHT MOODS

MK1 Scott Pressimone stands watch aboard the CGC Penobscot Bay during a night patrol in New York Harbor Jan. 1.

PHOTO BY PA2 MIKE HVOZDA,
PADET NEW YORK

WINTER







CRUSHED ICE

The CGC Elm, homeported in Fort Macon, N.C., breaks ice in the Hudson River Feb. 3. The Elm helped keep waterways open for commerce during the winter months.

PHOTO BY PA3 JOHN EDWARDS,
PADET ATLANTIC CITY

Jan. 4 — The crew of a Coast Guard HH-65 Dolphin helicopter from Air Station Miami medevaced 81-year old Lourdes Caballero, who was suffering from chest pains, from the island of Cat Cay, Bahamas, to Mercy Hospital in Miami.

Jan. 8 — Two Coast Guardsmen helped apprehend suspects of an attempted bank robbery in Algiers, La., after they witnessed the three men suspiciously exiting a local bank.

Jan. 8 — The crew of the CGC Dependable rescued four men from a disabled fishing boat that began taking on water 150 miles west of Cape Ann, Mass.

Jan. 14 — The crew of the CGC Thetis rescued three shrimp fishermen from the fishing vessel Dona Nelly after they were in the water for 45 minutes after their vessel sank 15 miles off the coast of Brownsville, Texas.

Jan. 25 — A helicopter crew from Air Station Detroit helped rescue 14 people stranded on an ice floe about one mile west of Catawba Island, Ohio.





EAGLE'S NEST

Garcia Graves stands in the commandant's briefing room, Dec. 6, where flag officers and senior executive service civilians receive daily operational updates. Graves works in the Coast Guard Headquarters command center as an audio visual computer information specialist.

PHOTO BY TELFAIR BROWN,
G-IPA-1

Jan. 26 — The Coast Guard's newest Marine Protector Class Coastal Patrol Boat, the CGC Sea Lion, arrived at its homeport of Bellingham, Wash. The Sea Lion has many improved mission sea-keeping abilities including upgraded habitability and compliance with all current and projected environmental protection laws. It also employs an innovative stern launch and recovery system for a small boat.

Jan. 29 — The crew of the 270-foot, Portsmouth, Va., based CGC Tampa disrupted a drug smuggling attempt during a 12-hour pursuit of a go-fast smuggling vessel in the Caribbean. As the chase ensued, the crew of the go-fast began to jettison approximately 50 bales of contraband into the ocean. The British Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel, Wave Knight, with an embarked Coast Guard Law Enforcement Team, was diverted to the scene to recover the bales.

Jan. 31 — The crews of a 47-foot Motor Lifeboat from Station Chincoteague, Va., and a rescue helicopter from Air Station Elizabeth City, N.C., combined to rescue five men after their vessel began taking on water 25 miles east of Chincoteague.





TERROR HUNTING

A CGC Wrangell boarding team returns after searching a vessel for illegal goods in the Middle East region Jan. 5. The Wrangell was deployed to the region to support the U.S. Navy 5th Fleet and coalition forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom to stop illegal oil smuggling and to search for terrorists.

PHOTO BY PA1 MATTHEW BELSON,
CG FORCES SOUTHEAST ASIA

Feb. 5 — Heavy oil from an unidentified source washed up on the New Jersey shore between Shark River Inlet and Seaside Heights. This prompted the Coast Guard and other federal, state and local officials to begin clean-up efforts along the 12-mile stretch of affected coastline.

Feb. 5 — Coast Guard units provided security as President George W. Bush and Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge addressed the nation from the Port of Charleston. Bush and Ridge discussed port security, Operation Iraqi Freedom and the war on terrorism.

Feb. 5 — The CGC Acushnet, the second oldest medium-endurance cutter still in operation, celebrated its 60th year in service in its homeport of Ketchikan, Alaska.

Feb. 10 — The CGCs Valiant and Pea Island repatriated 98 Cuban migrants to Bahia de Cabanas, after Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Coast Guard teamed up to stop the four voyages, including three go-fast smuggling attempts.





KID TALK

Coast Guard Auxiliarist Roland Maurer teaches first graders from Lolani School in Hawaii about navigation buoys and the rules of boating beside the Diamondhead Lighthouse Jan. 28.

PHOTO BY PA3 BROOKSANN ANDERSON,
14TH DIST.

Feb. 11 — Team Coast Guard Racing and Labonte Motorsports unveiled their “Shield of Freedom” #44 Busch Series car at the Infield Media Center at Daytona International Speedway. During the event, the Coast Guard introduced Terry, Bobby and Justin Labonte as official spokesmen for the service’s 2004 National Boating Safety Campaign “You’re in Command.”

Feb. 15 — Coast Guard crewmen from a Group/Air Station Port Angeles HH-65 Dolphin helicopter rescued a hiker who became stranded by an incoming tide south of Lapush, Wash.

Feb. 18 — The crews of a C-130 Hercules airplane and an HH-65 Dolphin helicopter from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point responded to an aircraft that was experiencing engine trouble 440-miles northeast of Kahului, Maui. The aircraft, a two engine Piper Navajo with one person aboard, was en route to Honolulu when it experienced engine failure. The Hercules and Dolphin located the aircraft and followed it to Kahului Airport.

Feb. 19 — Boat and helicopter crews from Station San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Air Station Borinquen rescued two people from a powerboat that sank 16 miles north of San Juan.

CUTTER ON ICE

The CGC Wire, a 65-foot ice-breaking tug homeported in Saugerties, N.Y., makes its way through an ice floe in New York Harbor Jan. 28.

PHOTO BY PA3 MIKE LUTZ,
PADET NEW YORK

Feb. 19 — Small boat crews from Station Charleston escorted a damaged motor vessel into the Port of Charleston after MSO Charleston personnel and members of the Gulf Strike Team spent nearly a week stabilizing the ship.

Feb. 20 — Coast Guard Marine Safety Office New Orleans and Air Station New Orleans personnel responded to a 22,000-gallon fuel-oil spill in the lower Mississippi River near Norco, La.

Feb. 20 — Coast Guard units along the Gulf Coast provided a higher security presence for the Mardi Gras season in New Orleans. The heightened security included several initiatives to keep New Orleans citizens and visitors safe.

Feb. 27 — The Coast Guard repatriated 531 Haitian migrants to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, after they were rescued in the Windward Pass. The migrants were from 13 boats stopped since Feb. 21. The repatriations were completed by three cutters. The crew of the CGC Valiant transported 290 migrants, the crew of the CGC Vigilant delivered another 241, and the CGC Nantucket escorted the cutters for safety and security. The migrants were turned over to the Haitian coast guard.

Feb. 28 — Coast Guard units responded to a tanker explosion off the coast of Chincoteague, Va. The tanker Bow Mariner was carrying 6.5 million gallons of industrial ethanol when it exploded. The Coast Guard rescued six survivors.





SPOTLIGHT

The foreign accent was filled with urgency and terror and demanded immediate attention.

"Bow Mariner, Bow Mariner. We are on fire, we are on fire! Mayday, mayday, mayday. This is Bow Mariner, Bow Mariner, we are on fire. Mayday, mayday, mayday, this is Bow Mariner, we are on fire, we are on fire!"

At Coast Guard Group Eastern Shore in Chincoteague, Va., OS1 Christopher Wheeler attempted to make radio contact with the frightened voice, but his calls went unanswered while various marine vessels radioed the Coast Guard about a vessel in distress. Information poured over the radio, and Wheeler was able to piece together that an explosion had occurred off shore.

The Coast Guard learned that the vessel's name was Bow Mariner, a 570-foot Singapore-flagged tanker, en route from Linden, N.J., to Houston, carrying 3.5 million gallons of industrial ethanol. It had been about 50 miles east of Chincoteague, Va., Feb. 28 when an explosion ripped through the ship.

Farther south in North Carolina, most of the aircrew at Air Station Elizabeth City had finished dinner and was relaxing in the crew's duty lounge. AET2 Sam Pulliam and AMT3 Jeremy McMullen were among them when the SAR alarm rang.

"Now, ready helo crew. Boat on fire off the coast of Chincoteague," came the watch stander's broadcast. The duty HH-60 Jayhawk crew, including Pulliam, two pilots and a rescue swimmer, raced to their helicopter and prepared to launch.

Minutes later, the alarm sounded again, and when McMullen, who was on the C-130 Hercules crew, saw his pilot run by, he knew that they too were going to launch in response.

Meanwhile, the CGC Albacore, at anchor for the night in the mouth of Delaware Bay, received word that they were diverting to assist as well.

AST3 Zee Lee was sitting down to dinner when the SAR alarm at Air Station Atlantic City sounded. Lee quickly learned of the possible burn victims and chemicals present and prepared the cabin of the HH-65 Dolphin helicopter with extra burn victim medical gear. The helicopter went airborne with Lee and three more crewmembers and sped toward the Bow Mariner.

The Hercules plane was first to the scene. McMullen, looking through an infrared lens, panned the camera down and couldn't believe what he saw. The stern of a ship was sticking out of the water, the rest already beneath the water's surface. "This thing's going down," McMullen reported to the pilot.

Flying over the sinking ship, McMullen spotted a covered life raft. Zooming in with the camera, he looked for evidence of any survivors and concluded that some-

Tanker down

Coast Guard units respond when a 570-foot tanker explodes off the coast of Chincoteague, Va.



one was possibly inside it. The Hercules radioed to the Jayhawk, still 15 minutes away, to check it out when they arrived.

The Dolphin helicopter crew from Atlantic City appeared moments later and immediately began searching for survivors. Amazingly, lights still burned brightly inside the sinking ship, but soon the lights went dark. Searching for anyone who might be clinging to the ship, the Dolphin hovered nearby. The crew saw no one.

At 7:30 p.m., as rescuers watched in silence, the last section of the Bow Mariner slipped below the surface and made its voyage to the ocean bottom.

The Hercules took the role of on-scene commander. Searching with a powerful C-130 Airborne Sensor Palletized Electronic Reconnaissance camera, McMullen spotted possible areas with survivors.

The Jayhawk reached the life raft and confirmed there were men inside. However, the pilot was hesitant to lower the rescue swimmer, AST3 Dave Foreman, into the chemicals and oil that had escaped from the fractured ship. Pulliam, operating the hoists, dropped the basket next to the raft hoping the men would get into it

on their own. When they made no attempts to leave their raft, it became clear the swimmer would have to go in.

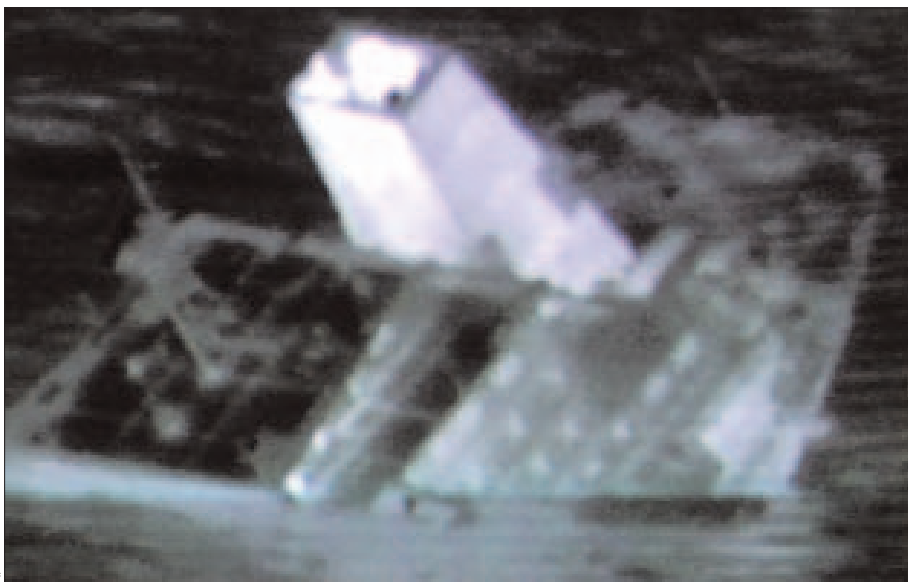
The first four trips of the basket went quickly. As each survivor entered the Jayhawk, the air became more pungent with the smell of ethanol, and the decks became more slick from the oil. Although Pulliam was attached to the helicopter with a harness, the survivors weren't, and he realized that one wrong move and they could slide out of the open door to the water 70 feet below.

There were only two men left in the raft as Pulliam readied the stokes litter for a man with a possible back injury. After the fifth survivor was raised to the Jayhawk, Pulliam wrestled him into the cabin. Disconnecting the litter, Pulliam reattached the basket and sent it down one last time.

As he watched the basket rise, Pulliam thought that the swimmer had become disoriented by the fumes and had placed a black bag in the basket. As the basket reached the cabin door, Pulliam realized the "bag" was a person so completely covered in oil that not even the whites of his eyes or teeth showed.

Once the swimmer was aboard, the crew headed to the hospital. During the hour transit, Pulliam, not wanting to move the severely hypothermic man more than necessary, held on to the basket atop the litter so that it would not crush the man still in the litter. To prevent the man in the basket from falling into sleep, a dangerous situation for a hypothermic victim, Pulliam jostled, poked or pinched him. It took nearly an hour before the helicopter landed at Norfolk Sentara Hospital in Virginia.

Back at the search area, a large field of debris and pollution made the search for more survivors difficult.



During the Jayhawk crew's rescue of the six survivors, the Dolphin's crew found an additional person.

Lee was dropped into the oil-coated water. Once in, Lee cautiously swam toward the man and worried that he was already deceased. When he saw the man move his arm slightly, Lee immediately clipped him into his own sling and directed the flight mechanic to hoist them up together. Lee checked the man for a pulse but couldn't find one. Lee and the flight mechanic began CPR. The oil in the cabin complicated efforts, making the use of oxygen not possible. Lee began administering mouth-to-mouth resuscitation while the flight mechanic started compressions.

The Dolphin was well on its way to Maryland when another Jayhawk helicopter from Elizabeth City and a 47-foot motor lifeboat from Station Chincoteague arrived at the debris field. The crew in the Hercules plane was still directing assets to various search areas when McMullen spotted a person on a lifeboat. A nearby commercial fishing vessel, the Capt. Bucky Smith, came alongside, and two fishermen jumped aboard the boat. The front and back ends of the lifeboat had been blown away, and another man was clinging to the side of it.

The fishermen hauled the man onto their boat as the Jayhawk's crew lowered AST3 Joel Sayers. Sayers checked the man, who was alert. However, the man soon stopped breathing. Sayers and the fishermen quickly hoisted him into the helicopter.

Sayers and the flight mechanic performed CPR on the man as they headed to the hospital, but the man never regained consciousness and was later pronounced dead. The man Lee plucked from the water later succumbed to his injuries as well. A fishing vessel on scene recovered one other deceased crewmember from the Bow Mariner. The six men who had been found in the life raft were the only survivors from the Bow Mariner. Although the Coast Guard continued searching for more than 40 hours, 18 crewmembers remained missing days later.

Story by PA2 Krystyna Hannum, Lantarea

AN EXPLOSIVE RESCUE Left: AST3 Zee Lee left his hand mark on the helicopter as he returned inside the craft after pulling a Bow Mariner crewmember from the ocean. Top: The Bow Mariner sinking off the coast of Chincoteague, Va., Feb. 28. Below: Fireman Micheal Lake holds a strobe recovered from the Bow Mariner during search efforts.





GUARDING THE GATE

A Coast Guard C130 aircraft from Air Station Sacramento soars through the clouds near the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco March 23. Air Station Sacramento routinely patrols the waters of the Eastern Pacific during law enforcement and search and rescue operations.

PHOTO BY PA1 BARRY LANE, PACAREA

SPRING



GRADUATION DAY

Cadets march into the ceremony at the Coast Guard Academy 123rd Commencement Exercises in New London, Conn., May 19. Commencement keynote speaker was Vice President Dick Cheney.

PHOTO BY CADET MICHAEL MANUEL,
COAST GUARD ACADEMY

March 8 — The CGC Vashon, a 110-foot patrol boat from Puerto Rico, intercepted a boat attempting to smuggle 89 Dominican Republic migrants into Puerto Rico.

March 13 — The crew of an HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter from Air Station Astoria, Ore., rescued three surfers after the tide pulled them out to sea near Willapa Bay, Wash.

March 21 — Rear Adm. Robert Duncan, 8th District commander, named two Coast Guardsmen as the 2003 Enlisted Persons of the Year in a ceremony at the Hale Boggs Federal Building in New Orleans. PS1 Arnulfo Martinez of MSO Corpus Christi and AMT3 Allan Campbell of Air Station New Orleans were named the Reserve and Active Duty Enlisted Persons of the Year.

March 22 — The Coast Guard teamed with representatives from the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association this week, to provide training to Juneau's Interior Distance Education of Alaska students and local educators at the Augustus Brown swimming pool in Juneau. The instructors taught the students about boat stability, lifejackets, immersion suits, mayday calls, and how to survive in an outdoor emergency.









HOLDING HER OWN

BM3 Robert Orchard plays an attacker for Lindor Malachie, a Haitian coast guard member, who has just been pepper sprayed during training in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, April 16. Orchard is a law enforcement petty officer and medical corpsman for Maritime Safety and Security Team 91104 out of Galveston, Texas, and is helping train members of the Haitian coast guard. The MSST deployed in early March, supporting Operation Secure Tomorrow by providing security on the water and helping stabilize the country.

PHOTO BY PA3 ANDREW KENDRICK,
PADET HOUSTON

March 25 — The Coast Guard, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and operation Bahamas, Turks and Caicos crews, working with the governments of Nicaragua and the Bahamas, seized more than 3,140 pounds of drugs in two cases in the Caribbean and the Florida Straits.

April 3 — The CGC Thetis seized 960 pounds of marijuana off Haiti's southern coast. The Thetis requested permission from the Haitian government to pursue a suspected smuggling boat into Haitian territorial seas. During the pursuit, the smugglers tossed nine bales of marijuana overboard before finally stopping two miles off the coast of Haiti.

April 14 — The first African-American woman to retire from the Coast Guard as a commissioned officer was honored at a ceremony at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington, Va. Lt. Cmdr. Rhonda Fleming-Makell retired after 20 years of service to the Coast Guard.



HEAVY METAL

Sparks fly as BMC William Miller finishes work on a steel mounting plate aboard the CGC Acacia March 19. Acacia was in the Chicago area to check and replace buoys for the 2004 Great Lakes shipping season. The Acacia is a 180-foot sea going buoy tender built in 1944 and homeported in Charlevoix, Mich.

PHOTO BY PA1 PAUL ROSZKOWSKI,
PADET CHICAGO



HANGING BY A THREAD

A helicopter crew from Air Station Los Angeles lowers a rescue swimmer for a cliff rescue drill on May 18 at Point Vicente Lighthouse in Los Angeles.

PHOTO BY PA3 LOUIS HEBERT,
PACAREA





MUSIC, SWEET MUSIC

Coast Guard Band members MU1 Megan Sesma (left) and MU1 Amanda Baker perform at the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Customs House in New York City June 17. The Coast Guard Band has performed at some of the most prestigious venues in the nation including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall.

PHOTO BY PA2 MIKE HVOZDA,
PADET NEW YORK

April 17 — Members from Coast Guard Station Kenosha rescued a teenager whose canoe capsized off the shores of Pike River near Kenosha, Wisc.

April 19 — The CGC Gentian, also known as the Caribbean Support Tender, steamed into Kingston Harbor, Jamaica, marking its 100th country visit since it was recommissioned in 1999.

April 20 — Coast Guard rescuers from Station Juneau assisted a crewman aboard the fishing vessel Tar Baby after it grounded near Battleship Island in Auke Bay, Alaska.

April 22 — A Coast Guard patrol boat from Station New York provided security for the Queen Mary II, the largest cruise ship in the world, as it transited through New York Harbor during its maiden voyage. Security vessels and aircraft surrounded the Queen Mary II on its way to pier 92 in downtown New York City.





HOMeward BOUND

The CCG Polar Sea, a polar ice-breaker, is towed stern-first into its homeport of Seattle, March 31, following a five-month deployment to the Antarctic. The ship transported scientists and broke through ice to re-supply the world's southern-most science stations. The ship's ice-breaking efforts allowed more than eight million gallons of fuel and 11 million pounds of cargo to be delivered to the McMurdo Research Station and South Pole Station.

AP PHOTO BY ELAINE THOMPSON

May 3 — The Coast Guard

Commandant's Innovation Council and Deepwater and Acquisition directorates hosted the fourth annual, Innovation Expo in Savannah, Ga. More than 100 Coast Guard/government and 125 industry exhibits were on display for more than 1,400 attendees.

May 5 - The Coast Guard presented the Purple Heart to BM3 Joseph Ruggiero in Miami for injuries sustained while defending the Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal in Iraq April 24. Ruggiero, the first Coast Guard recipient of the Purple Heart since the Vietnam War, received the award from Vice Adm. James D. Hull, Commander Coast Guard Atlantic Area. DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal, was killed in the bombing and posthumously received the Purple Heart.

May 7 — The CGC James Rankin set the historic "Francis Scott Key" buoy off of Fort McHenry, Md., near the Key Bridge in Baltimore, Md. The buoy marks the spot where the ship carrying Francis Scott Key, the author of the Star Spangled Banner, was anchored during the bombardment of Fort McHenry in the War of 1812. Each year the buoy is set in the spring marking the historic location of the event and then removed in the fall.





FINISHING TOUCHES

BM2 Kiel Johanson races the sun to finish a coat of paint on the fantail of the CGC Mellon while underway in the Western Pacific, May 20. The Mellon was deployed in Southeast Asia while participating in the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training exercise and Southeast Asia Cooperation Against Terrorism with the Navy, Singapore police/coast guard, and other Southeast Asian countries.

PHOTO BY PA3 MARIANNA O'LEARY, PACAREA

May 8 — The CGC Sherman returned to its homeport in Alameda after a patrol that produced one migrant interdiction and three drug busts, totaling nearly 13,000 pounds of cocaine, worth more than \$100 million. This was the first cocaine bust for the Sherman and its first drug seizure since 1976.

May 25 — Representatives from the Coast Guard in Seattle participated in a two-day joint state and federal tabletop exercise in Alta, Wyoming, to discuss the challenges of responding quickly and effectively to natural disasters. The Cascade Fury II exercise, presented a scenario where a magnitude 7 earthquake strikes southwest Wyoming, northeast Idaho, and the Utah border. In addition to the earthquake, responders dealt with a volcanic eruption in the Cascade Mountains.

May 26 — The United States and Mexican navies held an international oil spill response exercise in Matamoros, Mexico. The exercise is called MEXUS Gulf 2004. The event marks the third joint exercise since the signing of an agreement of cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico regarding pollution of the marine environment by discharges of hydrocarbons and other hazardous substances, called the MEXUS Plan.

SPOTLIGHT

DC3 Bruckenthal

From his remote Coast Guard post at Neah Bay, Nathan Bruckenthal, a transplanted New Yorker, took 9/11 personally. He flew home three times to help bury the dead and feed rescuers. On his final trip, he stripped off his Coast Guard T-shirt and left it on the rubble.

Then Bruckenthal cut short his tour of duty at Neah Bay to get more intense law-enforcement training. He wanted to fulfill what his commanding officer, CWO Mike Tumulty, called Bruckenthal's mission to be a "patriot, warrior and hero."

"When those twin towers were destroyed, he was very passionate to fight the war on terrorism," said Tumulty. "His sacred ground was forever ruined."

On April 24, Bruckenthal, 24, died along with two Navy servicemen when suicide bombers attacked a pumping station they were guarding in the Persian Gulf. He was the first Coast Guard member to die in combat since the Vietnam War.

The son of a police chief in a New York suburb, Bruckenthal was known as a tireless volunteer during the two years he spent at Neah Bay, from 2001 to 2003. Bruckenthal worked as a reserve police officer, firefighter, emergency-services responder, assistant football coach and mentor to young Makah Indians.

The Makah responded with a memorial ceremony that incorporated all of Bruckenthal's roles. Tribal chairman Ben Johnson presented gifts to Coast Guard members to deliver to Bruckenthal's wife, Patti, who was three months pregnant: a hand-painted oar and a traditional wool blanket symbolic of the tribe's protecting embrace.

"He freely gave of his time and didn't ask anything for it," said T.J. Green, chief of the tribal police. "He gave unconditionally to this community."

Bruckenthal's older sister, NoaBeth Bruckenthal, said her brother's time among the Makah was formative. He defended the Makah's controversial decision to renew their traditional whale hunts, for example, and he made an oar for a family friend as a wedding gift.

"I know he was grateful for the things he grew to know out there — to open your heart to new people and cultures," said his sister, of Ashburn, Va. "He had tremendous respect and wanted to help out in any way you could."

Nate and Patti Bruckenthal most recently lived near the Coast Guard Air Station in Opa-Locka, Fla., but the couple was considering returning to the waters and mountains of the Pacific Northwest that he loved, his sister said.

Bruckenthal, served as a damage-control officer, requiring him to use his skills as a carpenter and welder to fix boats in the heat of combat.

But he hungered for more action, volunteering for a hazardous rescue on the Strait of Juan de Fuca and responding to 50 emergency-services calls as volunteer, Tumulty said.

DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal gave the ultimate sacrifice while serving the Coast Guard in Iraq. His valor will always be remembered, and his memory eternally honored.



PAT SARAH FOSTER-SNELL, CG ACADEMY

"Nate was everybody's humanitarian," said Tumulty. "He was into the mission and going out to rescue people."


Bruckenthal and his wife also were both active in the Makah community, though neither was a tribal member. When they first met, she was working in a Makah special-education program through her college. He proposed on scenic Bowman Beach near the reservation. They married at the Space Needle on St. Patrick's Day, 2002.

He first served in Iraq in 2003 and decided to return for a second three month tour in March. Despite his enthusiasm for his mission, he had e-mailed a family friend to say he was growing anxious. "He basically said he was scared, not knowing if this was going to be his last day," friend Robert Engelbert told New



York's Newsday newspaper.

Bruckenthal's remains were transported to Dover Air Force base in Delaware before burial, which occurred May 7 at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Other survivors include his father, Eric, of Northport, N.Y.; and his mother, Laurie Bullock of Ashburn, Va. 

Story by Jonathan Martin, Seattle Times Staff Reporter. Copyright 2004 Seattle Times Company — Used with permission.

A HERO'S FAREWELL *Top:* Pall bearers carry the casket of DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal during his interment ceremony at Arlington National Ceremony May 7, 2004. *Right:* DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal while in the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Bruckenthal is the first Coast Guardsman to die in combat since the Vietnam War. *Opposite page:* Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Thomas H. Collins offer words of comfort while presenting the national ensign to Patti Bruckenthal, DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal's widow.



SUMMER

GUARDING THE HOMELAND

A 25-foot homeland security boat from MSST 91108 of St. Mary's, Ga., patrols the water around Jekyll Island June 2, in preparation for the G-8 Summit on Sea Island.

PHOTO BY PA3 BETH REYNOLDS,
PADET ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.









NEW WEAPON

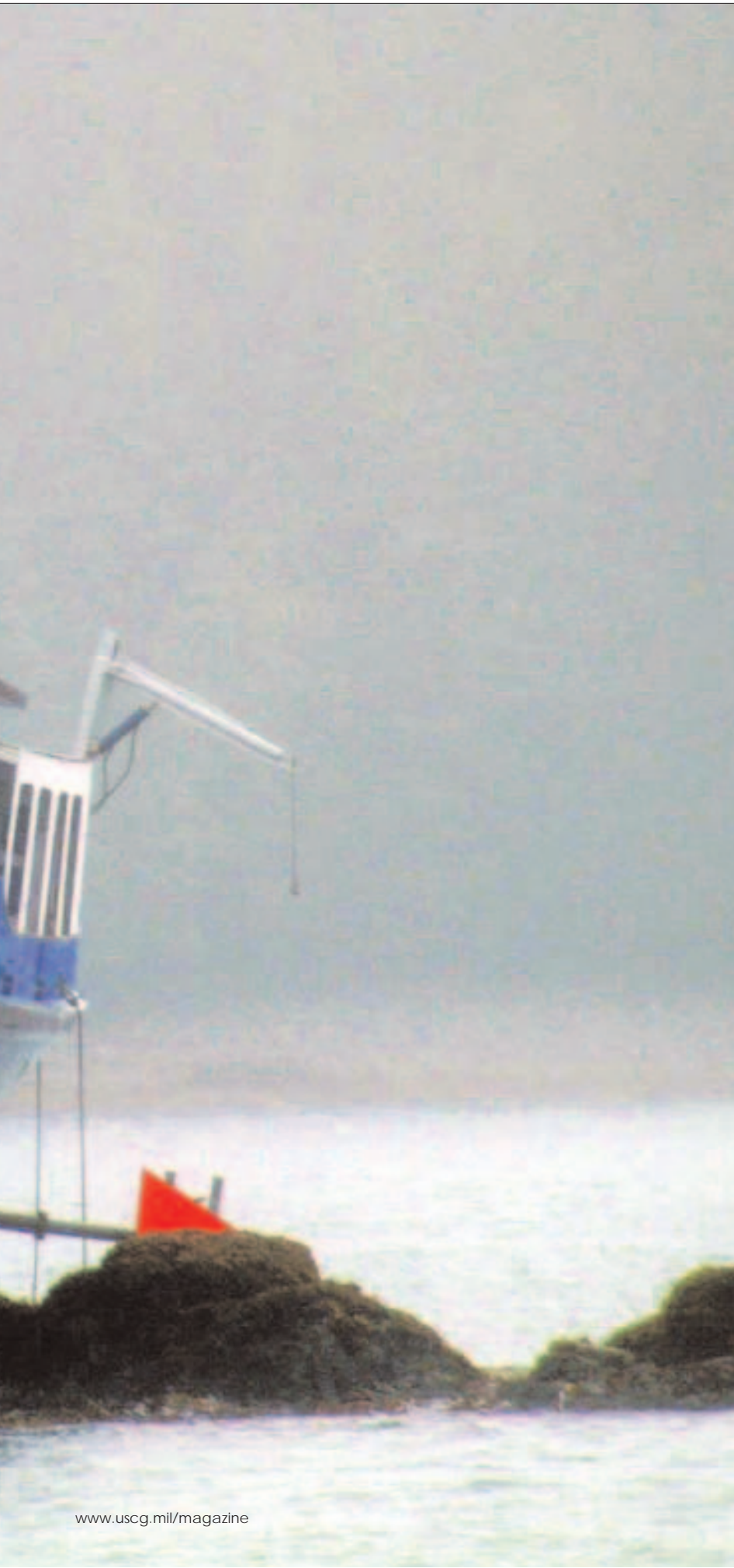
The crew of the CGC Sailfish set the watch for the first time during the 87-foot patrol boat's commissioning ceremony in Sandy Hook, New Jersey, June 3. The Sailfish's missions include homeland security patrols and search and rescue throughout New York and New England waters.

PHOTO PA3 MIKE LUTZ, PADET NEW YORK

June 2 — Six people, including two young children, were rescued from their sinking vessel approximately 25 miles east of Oregon Inlet, N.C., by Coast Guard rescue personnel after their vessel started taking on water at about 10:30 a.m. Kevin Nunemaker of Nags Head, N.C., the captain of the 24-foot recreational fishing vessel, radioed the Coast Guard for help after his vessel started quickly taking on water. A rescue crew from Station Oregon Inlet, N.C., arrived and pulled everyone except for Nunemaker off the distressed fishing vessel. Two members of the rescue crew then jumped aboard Nunemaker's vessel and instructed him to keep driving, while they used a dewatering pump lowered to them by a helicopter from Air Station Elizabeth City, N.C., to save Nunemaker's boat.

June 7 — CGC Bear returned to Integrated Support Command Portsmouth June 7 after completing a successful two-month, counter-narcotics patrol throughout the Caribbean. The Bear left on patrol from Naval Station Little Creek April 18 after completing a two-week annual training readiness assessment. As a result of the cutter's outstanding performance in completing 169 graded drills and exercises, the Bear is now eligible to receive the Coast Guard Atlantic Area Operational Readiness Award.





HIGH AND DRY

The Coast Guard investigated the grounding of the 70-foot vessel Waters, homeported in Homer, Alaska. The vessel struck the number four dayboard when it grounded on a rock in Narrow Strait north of Kodiak Island near the village of Ouzinke June 18. A dayboard is a navigational beacon that clearly marks the channel when navigating in a restricted waterway.

PHOTO BY PA2 SARA RAYMER, 17TH DIST.

June 12 — A multi-agency search resulted in the rescue of 91 migrants in the Mona Passage after their 40-foot yola capsized at approximately 1 a.m. Sadly, three deceased migrants were found trapped under the boat by divers from the Puerto Rican Police Department later this morning. "We are saddened at the lives lost in this tragedy and our hearts are with them and their families," said Capt. Doug Rudolph, commander of the Coast Guard's Greater Antilles Section.

June 14 — Coast Guard Station Alexandria Bay, N.Y. working in conjunction with the U.S. Border Patrol, seized 63 pounds of marijuana June 14 at the Leo Swamp Road Landing in Hogansburg. This seizure was a result of an on-going joint operation, coordinating U.S. and Canadian efforts along the international maritime border to detect, intercept and deter illegal activity.

July 24 — A Coast Guard New Orleans helicopter crew rescued two men after their helicopter crashed into the Gulf of Mexico 20 miles southeast of Patterson, La. The petroleum company helicopter started having engine trouble shortly after take-off from Abbeville Airport. The pilot and his mechanic had just enough time to make a distress call before their helicopter crashed into the water.

WE WON!

NASCAR driver Justin Labonte celebrates after his first Busch Series victory in the Coast Guard #44 car at the Tropicana 300 in Joliet, Ill. July 10.

PHOTO BY PA2 DAVID MOSLEY, PADET CHICAGO

July 29 — Investigation and pollution teams from Coast Guard Marine Safety Office New Orleans responded to a collision between two vessels in the Mississippi River in downtown New Orleans. The collision occurred between the 774-foot motor tanker Eagle Memphis and the 55-foot tug Mr. Craig while both vessels were north-bound near mile marker 93, just south of Algiers Point. The collision resulted in a 13-foot hull-breach in the starboard fuel tank of the Eagle Memphis causing an estimated 50 barrels of heavy fuel oil to spill into the waterway. The area around where the collision occurred was closed to maritime traffic for about two hours. There were no reports of any injuries.

July 29 — The CGC Alert's crew seized fishing gear belonging to the fishing vessel Bold Contender after the vessel was observed fishing for halibut following the official closure of a scheduled commercial halibut derby. During the one day derby, held July 28th, vessels holding International Pacific Halibut Commission licenses were authorized to fish for halibut using longline gear from 8 a.m., until 6 p.m. The boarding team seized gear and other evidence from the Bold Contender before the vessel returned to port. Evidence and information from the boarding was turned over to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to open an investigation into the incident. The Bold Contender hails from Warrenton, Ore.









SAFE AT LAST

HS2 Ayala Abner (left) and SK1 George Beltran treat a Dominican Republic migrant who spent 29 hours in the water after the vessel she was on in the Caribbean Sea capsized sometime July 12.

PHOTO BY PA1 DANIELLE DEMARINO
7TH DIST.

Aug. 4 — An Air Station Kodiak Jayhawk helicopter and crew safely medevaced a man from the motor vessel Tampere Aug. 3. They transferred the patient to a Lifeguard jet in Cold Bay then medevaced him to Anchorage. The Coast Guard in Honolulu received notification Monday from the master aboard the Tampere that one of his crewman, Sevilla Erwin Banjo Llorada, 32, suffered injuries from a forklift rollover and needed medical attention. Upon notification, the vessel was 1,445 miles southwest of Kodiak Island, and closer to Alaska than Hawaii.

Aug. 9 — Two Coast Guard cutters made separate drug busts in the Caribbean Basin July 30, keeping more than 4,600 pounds of cocaine from eventually hitting U.S. streets. A law enforcement team from the CGC Dependable conducted a routine boarding on the 60-foot fishing vessel Mary Hill and discovered 64 bales of cocaine hidden inside the water tank. The bales tallied to 3,840 pounds of cocaine seized. The second case began when the CGC Spencer spotted a 42-foot go-fast vessel approximately 25 miles northeast of Nicaragua. The crew aboard the go-fast began to jettison what appeared to be bales from the boat, and a pursuit ensued. The Spencer launched a boarding team in its small boat, along with its embarked MH-68 Sting Ray helicopter from the Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron in Jacksonville, Fla. After the suspected smugglers refused orders to stop, the Sting Ray crew issued warning shots and used disabling fire safely bringing it to a halt.





SOUNDING OFF

MK3 Zach Stout mans a sound-powered telephone during a refueling operation on board the 378-foot CGC Mellon Aug. 11. The Seattle-based Mellon made a brief stop in Apra Harbor, Guam, to take on fuel prior to returning home after deploying with units of the U.S. and allied navies for Exercise CARAT 2004.

PHOTO BY PH2 NATHANAEL MILLER, USN

Aug. 22 — A helicopter crew from Coast Guard Air Station Detroit located a 75-year old Toledo man on his 18-foot fishing boat after his daughter reported him overdue from a fishing trip. Willie Doubert Roby departed Toledo that morning with intentions of fishing for the day in eastern Lake Erie. Within a few hours, Roby was located in good condition just south of Pelee Point in Canadian waters. The C-130 directed a Canadian coast guard vessel to the boat, which towed it to a nearby port.

Aug. 26 — The U.S. Coast Guard announced it will use helicopters to conduct aerial interception, known as Rotary Wing Air Intercept, during National Special Security Events. Coast Guard helicopters provide a unique ability to intercept, query, and escort low-altitude, slow-speed aircraft that operate below the speed and altitude of jet planes operated by the North American Aerospace Defense Command, which provides air defenses for the skies over North America. "The events of 9/11 have forced fundamental changes in the way we conduct security in our nation," said Admiral Thomas H. Collins, commandant of the Coast Guard. "The Coast Guard has been quickly adapting to meet these new challenges and will continue to strive for innovative ways to enhance our ability to protect this country."

SPOTLIGHT

The Coast Guard joined other military services to honor former president Ronald Reagan.


The death of Reagan June 5 set into motion a plan that involved countless military members from all the Armed Forces. The Military District of Washington coordinated arrangements for the many events that led up to Reagan's official state funeral.

For more than a week, a worldwide audience watched the numerous events associated with President Reagan's funeral. As a past commander-in-chief, Reagan was afforded many military honors. Coast Guard servicemen and women served as honor guards for the remains, ceremonial musicians, marching units, official cordons, military escorts and ushers, color bearers, weapons bearers, funeral operations coordinators, official drivers, and media relations.

Nearly 400 Coast Guard active duty, reserve, cadet and recruit personnel supported funeral activities inside and outside the National Capital Region. Coast Guard units that participated included: Washington D.C. Headquarters, Telecommunications and Information Systems Command, Alexandria, Va.; Reserve Training Center, Yorktown, Va.; Training Center Cape May, N.J.; the New London, Conn.-based Ceremonial Band and Coast Guard Academy.

East Coast operational units and boat crews on temporary duty provided waterside security along the Potomac River and the Atlantic Area. Units involved included: Activities Baltimore, Station Washington D.C.; Air Station Atlantic City, the CGC Beluga; Station Ocean City; Station Parramore; Station Cape May and Station Portsmouth.

On the West Coast, the Captain of the Port of Los Angeles/Long Beach set up a special security zone at Point Magu. Units helping to enforce the zone included: Coast Guard 11th District, Group San Francisco, Air Station Los Angeles, Station Channel Islands Harbor, Marine Safety Detachment Santa Barbara, the CGC Blackfin and MSO/Group Los Angeles/Long Beach.

A state funeral is among the most visible operations conducted by our government. Coast Guard personnel paid the ultimate respect to our 40th president by a job well done. 

G-IPA-1

Goodbye to the Gipper

Coast Guardsmen from around the country pay their respects and join together with all the services to honor and say farewell to our nation's 40th president, Ronald Reagan.



TELFAR H. BROWN, SR., G-IPA



TELFAR H. BROWN, SR., G-IPA



TELFAR H. BROWN, SR., G-IPA

LAST RESPECTS

Above: Ensign Scott Murphy of the Coast Guard Presidential Honor Guard is relieved along with other honor guard members. Murphy was standing guard over President Ronald Reagan's casket in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda while visitors passed at the public viewing.

Right: The caisson carrying the remains of former President Ronald Reagan is escorted up to the U.S. Capitol by members of all the armed services.

Top left: A Coast Guard Honor Guard member escorts the caisson during the funeral procession to the Capitol in Washington June 9.

Left: The caisson passes in a funeral procession to the U.S. Capitol in Washington June 9.



PA2 JOSEPH PATON, G-IPA-1



COAST GUARD

A SONG FOR THE ROAD

MKCM Paul Rees of Naval Engineering Support Unit Seattle plays the bagpipes while the Coast Guard Icebreaker Polar Star gets underway from Pier 36 in Seattle Nov. 4.

PHOTO BY PA3 BRIAN LESHAK, PACAREA

FALL







RECYCLING BULBS

Seaman Aaron Scragg removes the light from a buoy that was just brought on the deck of the CGC Maria Bray Sept 24. The buoy met its seven-year life expectancy June 24. Scragg will remove the light so that it can possibly be used again on another aid to navigation.

PHOTO BY PA3 BOBBY NASH,
PADET MAYPORT, FLA.

Sept. 11 — The crew of the CGC Bear located a 50-foot wooden vessel holding 174 Haitian migrants 28 miles southeast of Great Inagua in the Bahamas. As two small-boat crews from the Bear passed life-jackets to the people aboard the homemade vessel, 29 of the Haitians fell overboard. The small-boat crews recovered 28 of the migrants, and another was rescued by an HH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew from Air Station Miami.

Sept. 17 — The Coast Guard made the largest single cocaine seizure in its history when Coast Guard and Navy forces discovered more than 30,000 pounds of cocaine aboard the fishing vessel Lina Maria approximately 300 miles southwest of the Galapagos Islands. Law Enforcement Detachment 108, part of the Pacific Area Tactical Law Enforcement Team in San Diego, embarked on the USS Curts, made the record seizure, which involved an attempted gun grab by a suspected smuggler.

Sept. 24 — A Kodiak Air Station helicopter and crew based in Cordova, Alaska, airlifted a man who had been attacked by a bear, and his daughter from the Yakataga State Game Refuge 75 miles southeast of Cordova. A brown bear bit Anchorage native Donald Welty on the head near the Tsiu River. Welty notified the Cordova Police Department by radio telephone. the police relayed the medevac request to the Coast Guard Command center in Juneau.





DANGEROUS BARRIER

A member of MSST 91109, stationed in San Diego, guards a critical Navy pier as part of final, stand-up drills in Charleston, S.C. Nov. 8. MSST 91109 participated in a rigorous 4-week training program, learning advanced boat tactics, personal fitness and defense, weapons handling and antiterrorism force protection at Coast Guard Special Missions Training Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C. Team 91109 graduated on Nov. 12 and are scheduled to be commissioned in December 2004.

PHOTO BY PA1 MATTHEW BELSON,
PADET NEW YORK

Sept. 26 — A Station Menemsha, Mass., law enforcement team seized the catch of the fishing vessel *Lophius* in New Bedford Harbor after boarding and discovering it had more than its allowable amount of sea scallops aboard. The *Lophius* was en route to New Bedford, Mass., from fishing grounds about nine miles southwest of Martha's Vineyard.

Sept. 30 — The Coast Guard ended the fiscal year with a record amount of drug busts. The Coast Guard seized 240,518 pounds of cocaine and shattered the previous 2001 record of 138,393 pounds.

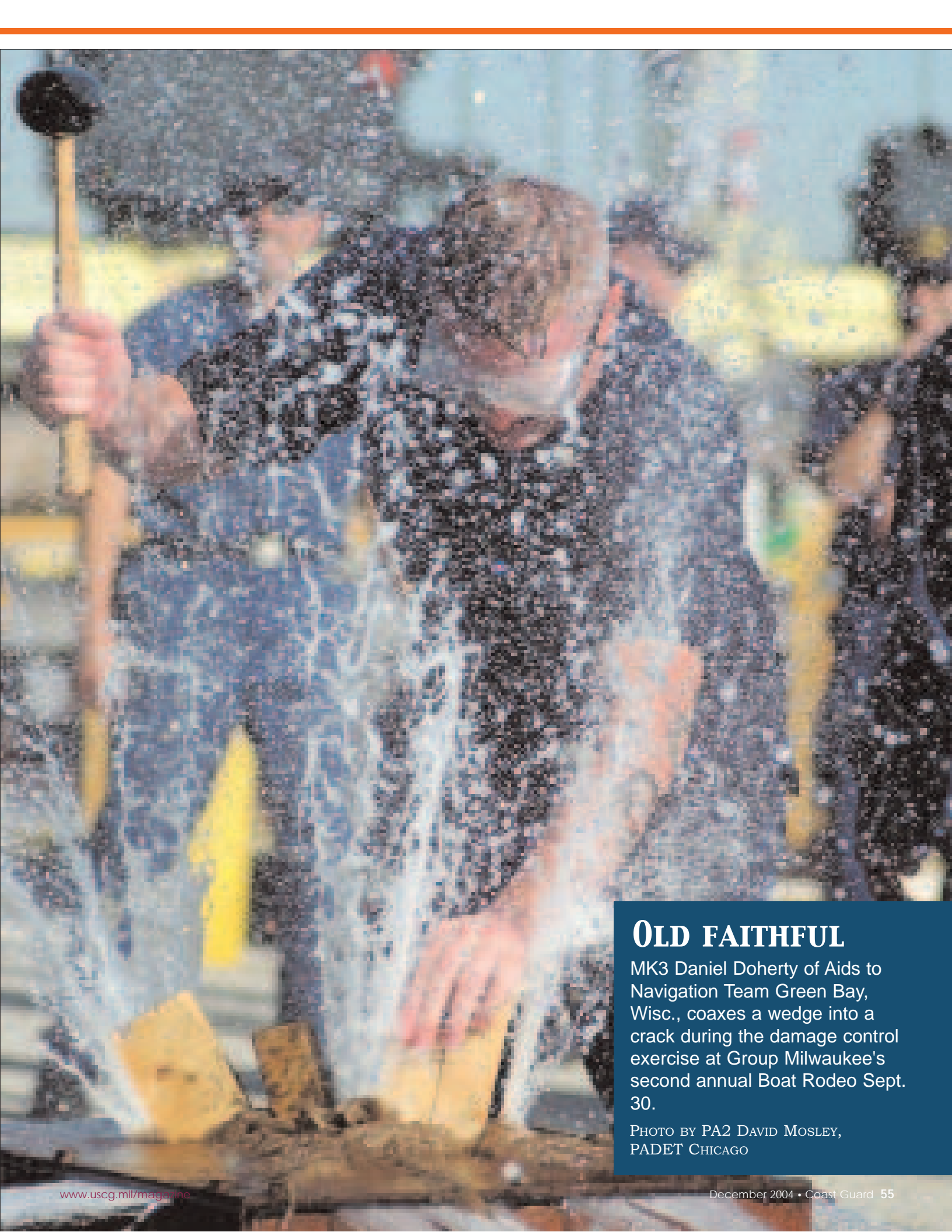
Oct. 2 — Only days into the new fiscal year, the crews of the Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron and the CGC *Gallatin* made a 4,000-pound cocaine bust in the Colombian basin and detained four suspect smugglers from a go-fast vessel.



TWIN TOWERS

As the third anniversary of the September 11 attacks approaches, a test of the Tribute in Light Memorial illuminates a passing cloud above lower Manhattan Sept. 9.

PHOTO BY PA2 MIKE HVOZDA
PADET NEW YORK



OLD FAITHFUL

MK3 Daniel Doherty of Aids to Navigation Team Green Bay, Wisc., coaxes a wedge into a crack during the damage control exercise at Group Milwaukee's second annual Boat Rodeo Sept. 30.

PHOTO BY PA2 DAVID MOSLEY,
PADET CHICAGO





NEW TOYS

Two newly acquired 179-foot Coast Guard cutters lie in anchor at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek in Virginia Beach, Va. The CGC Shamal (left) and the CGC Tornado were passed from the Navy to the Coast Guard Sep. 30., and will be commissioned in December in their new homeport of Pascagula, Miss. They will be used primarily for law enforcement operations.

PHOTO BY PA3 L.F. CHAMBERS, LANTAREA

Oct. 14 — Thirteenth District personnel and the Washington State Department of Ecology established a unified command to coordinate response to an oil spill of unknown origin in the Commencement Bay and Vashon Island areas.

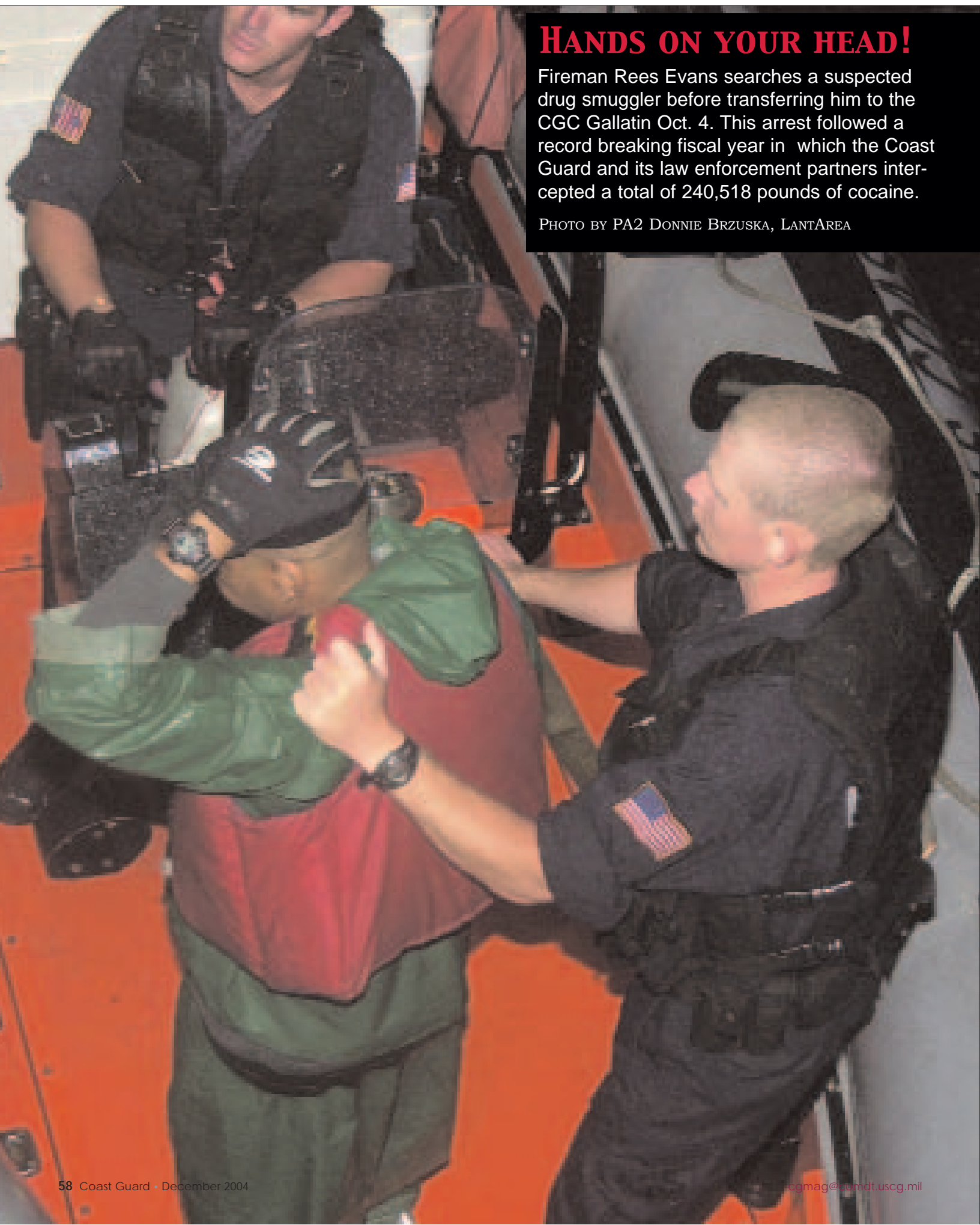
Oct. 19 — A small boat crew from Station Golden Gate, San Francisco, aided a fishing vessel that was taking on water. Two people aboard the 60-foot fishing vessel Southbay contacted the Coast Guard when their water pump was unable to keep up with influx of water. The Coast Guard boat carried an extra pump to the Southbay, then escorted it into San Francisco Bay.

Nov. 4 — The crew of a Coast Guard rescue helicopter from Atlantic City, N.J. flew a team of medical specialists from Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore to the aid of a 10-week-old girl in Salisbury, Md., who needed immediate treatment. After beginning initial treatment, the girl and her doctors were flown to Martin State Airport in Baltimore, where they took alternate transportation to return to the hospital. The Coast Guard assisted in this non-maritime effort because neither the hospital nor the Maryland State Police could safely launch helicopters due to the condition of the weather.

HANDS ON YOUR HEAD!

Fireman Rees Evans searches a suspected drug smuggler before transferring him to the CGC Gallatin Oct. 4. This arrest followed a record breaking fiscal year in which the Coast Guard and its law enforcement partners intercepted a total of 240,518 pounds of cocaine.

PHOTO BY PA2 DONNIE BRZUSKA, LANTAREA





HIGH MAINTENANCE

IT2 Chad Tabary of Electronic Support Detachment Mayport, Fla. rappels down the 83-foot St. John's River Lighthouse Oct. 14 to make final repairs to a communications cable, which had been battered by hurricanes Charley, Frances and Jeanne. The St. John's Lighthouse is still an active aid to navigation used for entrance to the St. John's River in Mayport. Oct. 1 marked the 50th anniversary of the lighthouse's activation into Coast Guard service.

PHOTO BY PA3 BOBBY NASH
PADET MAYPORT, FLA.

SPOTLIGHT

Four hurricanes pounded the Southeastern United States in the months of August and September, causing dozens of deaths and billions of dollars in damage.

First, Hurricane Charley struck with brute force just north of Fort Myers, Fla., Aug. 13. Soon after, Hurricane Frances struck Florida's east coast Sept. 5, followed by Hurricane Ivan, which slammed into Gulf Shores, Ala., Sept. 16 with devastating winds clocked at 130 mph. Finally, Hurricane Jeanne hit Florida Sept. 27.

It was the first time three hurricanes hit Florida in one season since 1964. As the storms churned toward the region, contingency plans were tested and response personnel worked long hours in preparation, hurling debris throughout the turbulent night and spawning swirling tornadoes and pounding surf.

Of the four storms, Ivan proved itself to be the most devastating one of the season. Ivan's waves destroyed homes along the Florida coast while the National Weather Service issued a flood watch for North Carolina, which had already suffered heavy flooding due to Hurricane Frances' persistent march across the eastern seaboard. Because so much of the city of New Orleans is located

Endless Winds

Four hurricanes rolled across Florida and the Southeast in August and September, leaving devastation and disarray in their wakes.



PA3 Mike Lutz, PADET New York

CRITICAL POINTS

Top: AST3 Aaron Raines of Aviation Training Center Mobile, Ala., keeps a watchful eye over an elderly woman in critical condition during a rescue flight from a church in Monroeville, Ala., Sept. 18. Hurricane Ivan left the group of more than 70 patients stranded and in need of medical attention.

Bottom: A car stops just short of the exit to the I-10 Bridge that collapsed near Milton, Fla., Sept. 21. The driver could not go the other direction because large sections of the bridge had fallen into the water.



PA3 Andrew Kendrick, PADET Houston



PA1 STEVE CARLSON/PA1

below sea level, residents and emergency workers braced for an unprecedented disaster in that city. Fortunately, the storm spared them a direct hit as it changed direction.

The remnants of Ivan pummeled Gulf states, destroying homes, flooding neighborhoods and leaving hundreds of thousands of people without power. It has been categorized as the deadliest hurricane since Hurricane Floyd struck in 1999.

According to the 7th and 8th Districts, the integration of active duty and reserve members has ensured quicker response time and smooth management throughout an unusually hectic season. Nowhere was that more evident than in the aftermath of Ivan as teams from the Atlantic coast mobilized support.

Coasties stationed in the Southeast knew they'll remember this season especially as they looked forward to Nov. 30, the hurricane season's final day. ¹

Story by PA1 Judy Silverstein, 7th Dist.

SURVEYING THE DAMAGE

Above: A Coast Guard Jayhawk helicopter crew from Aviation Training Center Mobile, Ala., conducts a damage assessment overflight between Orange Beach, Fla., and Perdido Key, Fla., Sept. 21.

Below: Some businesses and hotels along the Florida coast suffered catastrophic damage from Hurricane Ivan.



PA3 STACEY PARDINI/LANTAREA

THE ONE THAT DIDN'T GET AWAY

MK2 Bret Roles of Station Brunswick, Ga., measures a shrimp net May 22 to insure that the net's Turtle Exclusion Devices are of the proper length.

Photo by PA3 Bobby Nash, PADET Mayport, Fla.

